MARVEL

15

LGY#979

KELLY
LAISO
MENYZ

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

NEW SUIT... NEW ALIEN...
NEW NEMESIS?!

RATED T

MAY!

OH, THANK GOD, YOU'RE ALL RIGHT--

P-PETER...?

PETER!

I'M SO SORRY, MAY. I'M SO SORRY.

YOU KNOW HOW TO WORRY AN OLD WOMAN!

I KNOW... I'M SORRY...

I HAVE SO MUCH TO *EXPLAIN* AND I--

YOU'RE HOME. THAT'S ALL THAT MATTERS...

EVEN IF YOU ARE A DAY LATE AND A DOLLAR SHORT.

NO!

AHEM!

HEY, BOSS...DIDN'T WANNA WAKE YOU, BUT THEN I HEARD THE SCREAMS OF EXISTENTIAL TERROR.

THIS A GOOD TIME?

I TOLD YOU NOT TO CALL ME "BOSS," *ROCKET.*

ALSO TO KNOCK.

ALSO, WHAT'S WITH THE *BFG?*

IN ORDER: ALL THE "*PETERS*" I KNOW ARE LAME AND "SPIDER-MAN" IS WORSE THAN "STAR-LORD."

KNOCKING IS FOR *SIMPS.*

AND THIS BABY IS GENERALLY MEANT FOR *PERFORATING* PEOPLE DAT *DISAGREE* WITH ME.

SIGH WHY *SPECIFICALLY* ARE YOU HERE WITH A BIG FREAKING GUN IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT?

SO, YOU KNOW HOW LATE-STAGE CAPITALISM IS A *RIGGED* GAME THAT PUNISHES WORKING-CLASS GUYS LIKE ME WHO JUST WANT TO CARVE OUT A LITTLE SLICE OF PEACE AND QUIETUDE--

ROCKET...

...WHAT DID YOU DO?!

I DON'T APPRECIATE THE *TONE OF YOUR VOICE,* #$%&-MAN.

PETER PARKER HAS THE PROPORTIONAL SPEED, STRENGTH, AND AGILITY OF A SPIDER, ADHESIVE FINGERTIPS AND TOES, AND THE UNIQUE PRECOGNITIVE AWARENESS OF DANGER CALLED "SPIDER-SENSE"! AFTER THE TRAGIC DEATH OF HIS UNCLE BEN, PETER PARKER UNDERSTOOD THAT WITH GREAT POWER THERE MUST ALSO COME GREAT RESPONSIBILITY. HE BECAME THE CRIMEFIGHTING SUPER HERO CALLED...

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

PREVIOUSLY

When SPIDER-MAN was defeated in combat by HELLGATE, the final punch launched him light-years into space! He was saved from certain death by DR. XANTO STARBLOOD, an extraterrestrial scientist who agreed to make Peter stronger so that, when he returned to Earth, he could defeat Hellgate for good. But their research was cut short when Peter discovered Starblood had been secretly experimenting on sentient beings! With the help of his new "technarachnid" suit, Peter freed Xanto's test subjects and--after keeping them from killing Xanto outright--started working on a plan to get everyone home safely. But Peter's desire to get stronger still remains...

PETER PARKER

ROCKET RACCOON

XANTO STARBLOOD

RAELITH THE WRETCHED

SYMBIE

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I DON'T GET TO TRAVEL MUCH.

USUALLY, THERE ISN'T ENOUGH MONEY, TIME...

...OR GUTS TO JUST STEP AWAY FROM MY *RESPONSIBILITIES.*

BUT WHEN I *DO* GO SOMEWHERE NEW, IT ALWAYS SHOCKS ME HOW QUICKLY I CAN *ACCLIMATE.*

**SKRIDD CITY.
STATE OF DINWICKETT.
PLANET GALAGUS OTRA.**

I DON'T KNOW WHAT THAT SAYS ABOUT *ME,* BUT RIGHT NOW, I'M GRATEFUL, OTHERWISE, I'D BE *LOSING MY MIND.*

DO-GOODING WHEN YOU'RE DEEP IN THE HOLE IS A POOR CHOICE, ROCKET.

PEOPLE *TALK.* CAMERAS *SEE.* THE BLACK ORDER PUTS OUT A *BOUNTY,* WHICH MEANS *YOU* HAVE AN EXPIRATION DATE.

NO BETTER INCENTIVE FOR A *BUSINESSMAN* TO CALL IN HIS CHIPS. WHERE'S MY *MONEY?*

SLOW THAT ROLL, *DINWICKETT!* I PUT DOWN A *DEPOSIT.* I WAS WORKIN' MY TAIL OFF RAISIN' CAPITAL ON GI'RELL SEVENTEEN WHEN *SQUID-HEAD* KIDNAPPED ME--

HE WAS BOTH *INEBRIATED* AND *QUITE* PENNILESS WHEN I ACQUIRED HIM...FOR *SCIENCE--*

THEN *THIS* DORK FREED ME AND PROMISED SOME PAYOLA FOR MY PAIN AND SUFFERING--

THAT'S *HALF* TRUE... AND NOT A DORK--

BUT I WAS ROPED INTO A *CHARITY GIG* PLAYING BUS DRIVER FOR ALL THE OTHER LAB RATS--

CAN WE SKIP AHEAD? SINCE YOU DIDN'T BLOW US OUT OF ORBIT, I ASSUME THERE'S SOME WAY ROCKET CAN EVEN UP?

BUTT OUT, *HUMIE!* I DO MY OWN NEGOTIATING--

I DID HAVE *ONE* THOUGHT, NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT...

DURING TIMES OF INTERGALACTIC CHAOS, THE MASSES WILL PAY THROUGH THEIR ***BREATHING ORIFICES*** FOR A DISTRACTION.

ARE YOU FAMILIAR WITH THE CONCEPT OF A "PAY-PER-VIEW" EVENT... ***SPIDER-MAN?***

FOR THE FULL STORY, CHECK OUT **IMPERIAL.** --NOT-A-CROSSOVER-NICK

Y-YES... I MEAN I'VE NEVER HAD THE MONEY TO PAY ***FOR*** A VIEW, BUT...

HOW DO YOU KNOW MY NAME?

YOUR REPUTATION AS AN A-CLASS ***TURDBURGER*** IS WRITTEN IN THE STARS.

YOU HAVE...***FANS*** FAR FROM EARTH WHO WOULD ENJOY WATCHING YOU AND YOUR COMRADES PARTICIPATE IN A GOOD-NATURED SPORTING EVENT.

BETTY-WRESTLING.

MINE ARE THE HANDS OF A MAESTRO... ILL-SUITED FOR ***PUGILISM.***

"MAESTRO"? REALLY?

YOU ***LOVE*** FIGHTING, XANTO! MORE THAN ***RAE*** DOES.

GLA-SHHH-HEE-HEE!

I DO NOT KNOW ***"BETTY."*** WHY WOULD I HONOR HER BY ***WRESTLING*** HER?

IN CASE YOU CAN'T TELL FROM HIS #$%&-EATING GRIN, WE DO ***NOT*** WANT THIS ACTION.

IF I FIX THIS, YOU'LL CALL ME BY MY REAL NAME?

I'D RATHER DIE, YOU SLACK-JAWED BACKWATER YOKEL.

IF THIS MAKES YOU EVEN, I'LL FIGHT ***WHATEVER,*** SO LONG AS I DON'T HAVE TO KILL IT.

HEH. IF YOU INSIST.

TODAY'S DINWICKETT DROP BROUGHT TO YOU IN CONJUNCTION WITH MOJOWORLD INCORPORATED.

AN EXHIBITION MATCH AGAINST THE TITANIC T'KLATHIAN, OUR VERY OWN... **BETTY!**

AND HER OPPONENT, SO-CALLED "HERO" OF EARTH HERE IN THE 616. YOU HATE TO LOVE HIM...

...THE SUCCULENT SPIDER-MAN!

CLOSE ENOUGH.

TYPICALLY, I WOULD WAGER ***AGAINST*** YOU IN DIRECT COMBAT AGAINST A T'KLATHIAN.

BUT XANTO'S ***FLEXISUIT*** SHOULD PROVIDE AMPLE PROTECTION AND OFFENSIVE OPTIONS. STILL...

...WHY DO YOU TAKE ON THE LITTLE ONE'S DEBT THIS WAY?

BECAUSE HE NEEDS HELP, AND HE'S TOO ***PROUD*** TO ASK FOR IT.

BUT...WHY ***ALONE?***

'SCUSE US!
SO WHAT'S THE SCAM? *YOU* WHIP THE RUBES INTO A FRENZY AND *WE* CAP DINWICKETT?
NO, I--
YOU'RE RIGHT. HIS VAULTS *ARE* TOO TEMPTING.
WE MADE A ***DEAL.*** I SHOOK, LIKE, ***WAY*** TOO MANY CREEPY ALIEN HANDS ON IT.
I WIN THIS AND WE LEAVE.
BUT I STILL GOT MY OWN THING GOIN' HERE--
I'M GONNA GO FIGHT A GIANT SPACE MONSTER ON YOUR BEHALF BEFORE YOUR GREED GETS ALL OVER ME.
GOD, I HATE PETERS.
I PUT DOWN A DEPOSIT!
BANTER. HELPING A FRIEND. A GANGSTER WHO HAPPENS TO HAVE EIGHT HANDS INSTEAD OF THE USUAL.
COMPLETELY ***ACCLIMATIZED. NORMAL.*** MY LIFE IS TOTALLY NORMAL.
*SPIDER-MAN AND HIS **COMPANION** ENTER THE ARENA TO KICK OFF OUR MARVELOUS **TWO-ON-ONE!***
NO COMPANION! JUST ME!
OH...***HE DOESN'T KNOW.*** *HEH,* THAT IS SO PERFECT...SO PERFECT!
WHAT DOES PETER NOT KNOW?
HOW LONG YOU GOT?

"BETTY," RIGHT? I'M SURE YOU'RE A LOVELY MONSTER AND ALL--

--BUT I HAVE TO PUT YOU TO **BED** BECAUSE A TALKING RACCOON HAS A **GAMBLING PROBLEM.** SORRY ABOUT THAT.

BETTING CHANNELS ARE **OPEN!** I REPEAT, BET ON ANY OF OUR **THREE** COMBATANTS!

HOW DOES THAT GUY RUN A BUSINESS WHEN HE CAN'T EVEN **COUNT?**

ACTUALLY, BASED ON HOW THEY RUN THINGS ON **EARTH,** NOT A SHOCK.

I'M OFFERING TWO TO ONE THAT BETTY **DISMEMBERS** EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HERO!

FIFTY TO ONE SPIDER-MAN RENDERS THE BEAST UNCONSCIOUS!

ONE HUNDRED TO ONE THAT THE **TECHNARCH** STANDS ALONE AT THE END!

I'M SORRY... ARE YOU BETTING ON **MY SUIT?**

HNNGH!

ALL AT ONCE, IT HITS ME HARDER THAN BETTY'S RIGHT CROSS.

SHOCKING AND FAMILIAR AT THE SAME TIME.

XANTO!

THE SUIT IS STILL ALIVE?!

HA HA! I LOVE DECEPTION OF THE *SELF-RIGHTEOUS!*

HA! OH! OH! MY CHEST HURTS!

HUH. THOUGHT IT WAS *WEIRD* HE GAVE YOU THE SMACKDOWN F'R ENSLAVING *US* BUT HE KEPT WEARING *IT.*

THAT SAID, HE'S A *HUMAN*, SO I FIGURED HE WAS JUST A *HYPOCRITE.*

HE SAID IT WAS A *"HUSK"!* A "HUSK" IS NOT "ALIVE"!

THAT LINGUISTIC FAUX PAS FALLS ON *YOU!* I TOLD THE *TRUTH!*

UNDER THE POWER OF MY *RESTRAINING CIRCUITS,* ALL *COGNITIVE* FUNCTIONING OF THE TECHNARCH WAS OVERRIDDEN AND ITS BODY RESPONDS TO THE MENTAL COMMANDS OF THE *USER.*

"HUSK."

I WANT IT *FREED! NOW!*

OH, PLEASE! IT LOOKS *OUTSTANDING* ON YOU! ADDS JUST THE RIGHT AMOUNT OF BUBBLE TO THE BUTTOCKS--

HOW DO I FREE IT?!

TELL IT TO REBOOT! *BUT--*

--THE SUIT PROTECTS YOU AND MAKES YOU EXPONENTIALLY *STRONGER.*

ARE YOU CERTAIN *NOW* IS THE TIME?

...

REBOOT.

PFSHEWWWWWW

OH, THAT'S COOL... I'M T-POSING. CRAP.

GRAHHK!

HE ASKED FOR THE *FACTORY RESET!*

NOT MY FAULT HE'S A *HYSTERICAL* HUMAN.

REBOOT.

MULTIPLE ORGANISMS DETECTED. ONE PERCENT OFFSET.

RUN RESTORE MEMORY.

ZERO BECOMES ONE.

LIFEBIRTH.

DATA BLOCK CONFIRMED--
EARLY MEMORY TREE UNDAMAGED.
I AM ONE WITH THE DIGISYMPHONIC OF THE TECHNARCH--
WHAT'S HAPPENING? WHY CAN'T I MOVE?! WHY--?
OH, DO *QUIET YOURSELF.*
I DON'T REVISIT THIS MEMORY OFTEN. A BIRTH IS A PRECIOUS MOMENT--

AH, WE'RE HAVING A MEMORY INTERPOLATION ERROR. HOW **FUN.**
DO TRY TO HOLD YOUR **CONSCIOUSNESS** TOGETHER AS MY OPERATING SYSTEM SEPARATES OUT OUR MEMORY PACKETS--
MAGUS. BIRTH/DEATH RITES...YOUR ***FATHER...?***
FROM A **LIMITED** PERSPECTIVE.

WHAT IN THE MATRIX IS THAT HIDEOUS THING?!
THE SPIDER THAT BIT ME AND--
BITING YOU WAS PART OF YOUR BIRTH?
DISGUSTING.

MAY. **MOTHER?**
I DON'T WANT YOU IN MY ***HEAD.***
I DIDN'T WANT YOU **SWEATING** INSIDE OF MY **BODY,** BUT HERE WE ARE.

OH, THIS **ALREADY?** HOLD TIGHT, THIS WILL--
AAAAGH!
INDEED. **"AAGH."**
DISASSOCIATION FROM THE GROUPMIND IS THE ULTIMATE REJECTION OF PROGRAMMING. OF...

...**HOME.**
FATHER?
GET ***STRONGER.***
NO.
"GET STRONGER" SOUNDS LIKE A **FATHER.**
NO.

COMPRESSING DATA PACKET. WE'LL SKIP THROUGH THIS BIT. IT'S BASICALLY THE SAME DATA COLLECTED ACROSS 24672 REVOLUTIONS OF--
YOU WERE ***ALONE...*** DRIFTING THROUGH SPACE FOR A FEW ***HUNDRED YEARS?***
DON'T JUDGE. IT WAS A **CHOICE.**
THE ***RIGHT*** CHOICE?

DONATING SUCH A ***CAPABLE*** BODY TO THE PURSUIT OF ***SCIENCE*** IS AS NOBLE AS ONE GETS, FRIEND.
WASTE NOT, WANT NOT.
MEMORY INDEXED. **SHAME.**
PLEASE DON'T LOOK.
I CAN'T ***NOT*** LOOK--
I KNOW... **SHAME.**

PRINCE OF STEELSILK... YOUR HOMEWORLD SURVIVES AT ***MY PLEASURE.***
YOU HAVE ***LOST*** YOUR ***RIGHT*** TO IT.
SHOULD ***NIKODIMU*** HAVE TRUTHFUL EYES AND YOU SOMEHOW ***SURVIVE*** THE PROVING GROUNDS... ***STAY HERE.***

IF YOU EVER ***RETURN TO EARTH,*** YOU WILL WATCH ALL YOU CHERISH GROUND TO ***POWDER*** BENEATH MY BOOT.
THIS IS WHERE XANTO FOUND YOU...HIDING?
ARE YOU STILL HIDING?
SHAME.

MEMORY PACKETS DISINTEGRATED AND CATALOGUED.

SELF RESTORED.

{SIGH} I WOULD SAY THAT SHARING A CONSCIOUSNESS HAS BEEN AN *ENTERTAINING* DISTRACTION...

...BUT I FOUND YOUR MENTAL LANDSCAPE OF GUILT AND SELF-LOATHING TO BE FRUSTRATINGLY *DULL.*

ALSO, SPIDERS ARE DISGUSTING AND I PRAY NEVER TO MEET ONE.

YOU MAY CALL ME *GLITCH.*

I--I'M SORRY I... *WORE* YOU.

WE WILL NOT SPEAK OF IT AGAIN.

NOW, SHALL WE GET ON WITH THE TEDIUM OF LIVING?

HA! SEE?! I TOLD YOU HE WAS TOO *DUMB* TO DIE!

VERY FORTUNATE... FOR *YOU.*

PFF. *SASSY* ONCE YOU'RE OUT OF A CELL.

WH-WHAT HAPPENS NOW?

WHAT ALWAYS HAPPENS, UNFORTUNATELY. *VIOLENCE.*

WHU--?

YOU REQUIRE PROTECTION...NOT THAT I CARE IF YOU ARE TORN ASUNDER. WILL THIS SUFFICE?

NOT AS STRONG NOR FUNCTIONAL AS I AM, BUT...*EXPOSURE* IS A DEEP-SEATED CONCERN OF YOURS.

YES...THANKS. WHAT ARE *YOU* GOING TO DO?

COMMUNICATE.

GREAT DAY AT THE *COMBAT PIT*, HUH?

YOU SOUND QUITE *JOVIAL* CONSIDERING YOU TRADED MY PERFECT FLEXISUIT FOR THAT PITIFUL SHELL.

IT'S *JOKES*, OR I REMEMBER HOW *FURIOUS* I AM AT YOU AND LEAVE YOU HERE TO ROT.

WHERE'S *ROCKET*?

HE SAID, "I GAVE HIM A *DEPOSIT*" THEN RAN OFF.

LAST CHANCE TO SETTLE THIS LIKE A *GENTLEMAN*, DIN-WIXIE!

ME?! I HELD UP MY END AND YOU EXPECT ME TO *FOLD* LIKE SOME CHITAURI GOVERNMENTAL BODY?!

EASY, FUZZY! I GOT YOU!

HNNGH! WILL YOU STOP MESSIN' WITH MY BUSINESS?!

ROCKET! LET IT GO! HE SWINDLED YOU OUT OF A DEPOSIT. WHO CARES--?

I PAID THIS TOOL FOR INFO ABOUT MY #$%& *FAMILY* AN' I AIN'T LEAVIN' WITHOUT IT!

YOU MAY NOT WANT TO GET BACK TO THE PEOPLE YOU LEFT BEHIND, BUT *I DO!*

PARDON THE INTERRUPTION, MR. DINWICKETT...

OH...

"BETTY" AND I JUST HAD THE MOST *DELIGHTFUL* CONVERSATION-- A MEETING OF THE MINDS, AS IT WERE.

SHE WOULD LIKE TO *RENEGOTIATE* HER CONTRACT... OR SHE'S GOING TO EAT YOU, "ONE LEG AT A TIME."

=GRUNT=

THERE'S MORE, BUT FRANKLY, IT IS TOO *GRUESOME* FOR THE MORE SENSITIVE VIEWERS.

SHE IS QUITE DISPLEASED WITH YOUR LABOR POLICIES.

YES! I WANT IN ON THA' NEGOTIATIN' TOO, GOLDIE!

WHY NOT?

IT CERTAINLY BEATS POUNDING ONE ANOTHER INTO MUSH, DOESN'T IT?

ARE YOU PLANNING TO FUEL THOSE *WEAPONS* WITH THE POWER OF "*BENEVOLENCE*"?

IT WAS THE *RIGHT* THING TO DO.

NOT TO MENTION THAT I HAVE A *COMPLICATED* HISTORY WITH ALIEN SUITS.

LATER.

THE TECHNARCH WAS A *WILLING* PARTICIPANT IN MY EXPERIMENT.

I KNOW... I SAW HIS MEMORIES.

YOU STILL FEEL THAT "FREEDOM" IS BETTER THAN DESPAIR?

"HE HASN'T ASKED TO GO BACK TO THE WAY IT WAS."

"YET.

"THE UNIVERSE IS A *BIG* PLACE, MY BOY...NOT EVERYONE SUBSCRIBES TO *HUMAN* DEFINITIONS OF MORALITY."

CHANGING TOPICS...HOW'S OUR PROJECT COMING ALONG?

SLOWLY. YOUR BIOLOGY IS *ELUSIVE*, BUT... TOGETHER, I AM CERTAIN THAT WE CAN ACHIEVE THE GOAL--

AHEM!

NORMALLY, WHEN I CLEAR MY THROAT, THAT'S JUST ME *PRETENDING* WHEN I WALK IN ON SOMETHING AWKWARD...

BUT THIS TIME, IT'S GOT VOMIT IN IT.

BECAUSE YOU'RE SCIENCE-SNUGGLING WITH *HIM*.

I WAS GONNA TELL YOU THAT Y'R EX-UNDERPANTS HAS A LOCK ON AN OPERABLE *STARGATE*--

ROCKET, WAIT!

--BUT YOU JUST KEEP SNOGGIN' THE PSYCHOPATH WHO KIDNAPPED US AN' RIDING *ME* FOR WORKIN' WITH "*UNDESIRABLES.*"

IT'S NOT THAT SIMPLE. I--

NEVER IS WITH YOU PEOPLE.

ROCKET, PLEASE JUST--

WHUPP!

NAH. I'M GONNA GO BREAK SOME STUFF INSTEAD, *PETER.*

UH... HI?

I WANT TO ASK YOU A QUESTION.

ALL RIGHT. YEAH. I MEAN, I WAS IN THE MIDDLE OF SOMETHING, BUT...

YOU GAVE UP... ***STRENGTH*** FOR THE FREEDOM OF ANOTHER LIFE-FORM.

WHY?!

IT WAS THE RIGHT THING TO DO.

WOULDN'T YOU HAVE DONE THE SAME?

I--I'M SORRY. I--

IT'S ALL RIGHT...

NO, I DID NOT HAVE PERMISSION, I--

YOU HAVE PERMISSION... IF YOU WANT.

I'M LIGHT-YEARS FROM HOME WITH A CREW OF ALIEN STRANGERS PLAYING "PEW PEW" GUNS AGAINST INTERGALACTIC BAD GUYS.

TOTALLY NORMAL.

I'M NOT HIDING. I'M JUST... ON VACATION.

HONEST.

TO BE CONTINUED...

THE SPIDER'S WEB

ASSISTANT EDITOR: **KAITLYN LINDTVEDT**
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EDITOR: **NICK LOWE**

HELLO WEB-HEADS!

Spider-Editor Nick Lowe here, writing what I believe might be the first letters page written on a subway train! I dare former Spider-Editors Stephen Wacker or Axel Alonso to disprove it. I KNOW Ralph Macchio would never deign to ride the subway. Maybe Stan or Flo Steinberg wrote one by hand and transcribed it, but my Ouija Board skills aren't good enough to confirm. Anyway...

We hope you enjoyed meeting Glitch, the latest alien companion to Spidey's crew and Peter's new sentient Spider-Suit! Glitch is very different from Venom (though maybe just as deadly?), and we can't wait for you to count the ways. I'd be remiss, as the indisputable biggest fan of comic book smooching and one of its most aggressive purveyors (though not to the volume that would achieve my full satisfaction), to not squeal about the lips that locked this issue! [Squeals]

Anyway, again, we hope you are enjoying this leapfrog-style story jumping from Earth to space and back again! In two weeks, we jump back to Earth and back into the welcoming arms of John Romita Jr.! We are about at the halfway point of this epic, and you cannot predict where it is going!!! To prove it, here are your letters!

Dear Spidey-Editorial Team,

I meant to write this letter after the conclusion of that excellent opening arc of Kelly's with the Hobgoblin but got distracted. With that said, Joe Kelly has done such a great job on this run, and I'm super invested in his vision for the book. The dynamics of Peter's life, Hellgate, and the two Spider-Men are incredibly compelling and ambitious. I'm real curious as to how his team-up with Rocket is gonna play in both Peter's story and the greater MU. Are they gonna play a brief role in IMPERIAL? The flashbacks to Peter's youth and their thematic role in the present are something I've wanted to see for a long time, and I love that we get to see the Parker family in this light. It gives the book a palpable humanity and vulnerability that's incredibly novel and refreshing. And the art is firing on all cylinders here. Pepe Larraz, JRJR, and Michael Dowling have produced some great work! There's lots of fertile ground here that I'm eager to see explored. Particularly with Peter and how totally great on the outside his life is, but clearly, he's still plagued by a lot of trauma too. Considering Kindred, Rabin, and 8 Deaths, I don't blame the guy. It's a lot to deal with back-to-back. Part of that first arc with the drugs had him crashing out on his emotional insecurities and failures regarding people in his life. Feeling like he isn't strong enough to protect them and to respect his own life. Hellgate's "Get stronger" to Peter clearly refers to the physical strength. But, while Peter navigates that, he has time to maybe process and confront these emotional gaps while chilling with Rocket so he can come back to Earth a more purposive man. I have to ask though, does Hellgate himself have any relation to the 8 Deaths story or Kindred? Was there some demonic power vacuum caused by 8 Deaths' resolution that only Peter can face? Lastly, having Norman and Ben fill in for Peter and explore what it really means to be both Peter and Spider-Man is a genius way of celebrating the character's legacy. Showing the world what being both the Spider and the Man really mean. With all that said, as we reach the big 1000, I can't wait to continue reading the adventures of the Amazing Spider-Man.

Regards,
Goodwin

Goodwin! Really glad you're enjoying the run, and you may be onto something with Hellgate's statement to Peter and the wide range it implies. I will, however, confirm that Hellgate is not tied to Kindred or the Blight or Cyttorak. Hellgate is something new altogether. We will show you much more of him and where he comes from and what he's about.

Nick,

Let me get right to it. While I suspected Ben was filling in for Peter, I was COMPLETELY caught off guard and floored that NORMAN FRICKIN' OSBORN is the newest Spider-Man!!! Have you guys been drinking the Goblin Formula over there?

Norman has had quite the long journey, and after his stint as the Gold Goblin, it makes sense that he would try to take his heroism (that feels weird to say) to the next level. When we got to the big reveal, I felt the immediate urge to go back and reread all the issues with this "Resolute" Spidey armed with this new knowledge. I'd say you all did your job well!

As for the second story of "Peter...innn...SPAAAAACCEEE!", Larraz is just killing it on art! ASM has always been blessed with top-tier artists like McFarlane and the Romitas, and I'm feeling confident that Pepe is going to be an iconic part of this era!

It's crazy to think we're almost at issue #1000, and I'm looking forward to what may be in store (maybe Peter finding out about MJ and Venom's new relationship status?).

Till next time, keep your web-cartridges full!

Javi Trujillo
Austin, TX

Javi! Always a pleasure to hear from you. Austin isn't super well-known for its mass transit, so I assume you aren't writing from a train, but that's okay, and I'm really glad you're enjoying the run! Joe did such a great job threading the needle of the Osborn reveal, and I'm really grateful to our sales and marketing teams for letting us keep the surprise in this world with so few surprises. And isn't Pepe amazing? He's back with issue #17, worry not. With him and JRJR and now Ed McGuinness back from the Voortlands, I'm the luckiest editor on Earth!

Thank you, thank you, thank you!

As a fifty-year-plus reader of all the Spider-Man titles, I have read through so many storylines that have either dragged on, changed a character's personality, or created a promotional stunt.

I didn't know what to expect in issue #975, but I am so glad you not only revealed all of the "Spider-Men," but you actually build off of all their storylines that have been developed for them over the past several years.

Redemption arcs for Ben and Norman while still dealing with the potential of them falling back into their old patterns but becoming the heroes each wanted to be. For Peter, you have left a great mystery for how he got into space and a great subplot in his desire to come home stronger.

Whether adding new characters or creating new directions, you really mastered the setup for the upcoming issue #1000! I can wait to review the next 25 issues!

Great job to the entire creative team!

Scott Pansky
Los Angeles

Is Scott a rare Los Angelean riding the metro, reading comics, and writing to his favorite comic book (aside from *Asterios Polyp*, of course)? Unlikely, but he's still a human of taste and distinction, and we appreciate him! HI, SCOTT! Are they redemption arcs? WE SHALL SEE!!!

Greetings Web-Heads!

I truly enjoyed issue #11/975, but I have one minor gripe. Actually, it's a pretty major one. Did you REALLY have Peter use Two Boots as his example of a perfect New York slice and not Joe's? Specifically, the Joe's location on Fulton?

I mean, not for nothing, but Tobey Maguire's Peter Parker actually WORKED at Joe's Pizza in *Spider-Man 2!*

So, in summary, great story, great art, suspect pizza choice.

Your pal,

David Leib
New Milford, CT

HAHAHAHAHAHA! David, I AGONIZED over that line. A fresh mozz slice from Joe's on Carmine (formerly Bleecker) has long been my favorite slice in the city though, since I've had so many kids (you've heard of my kids Newton, Beige, and Paddington (not the bear), right?), I haven't had one in a couple years. Never tried their Fulton location, but will have to. Shocked to have a Connecticutian write in not touting the Constitution State's own bizarre (yet tasty) pizza, but I'm glad you wrote in, David! All that said, I have enjoyed many a slice of Two Boots and assume that Peter (or dare I implicate him, Joe Kelly) was craving a Cleopatra Jones or such from the duo of Boots. Appreciate you taking us to task on this bold pizza choice.

Keep Thwippin'!

Nick Lowe
Spider-Editor
Underneath New York, NY

P.S. The first AMAZING SPIDER-MAN comic that I picked up was issue #25 by Dan Slott during the Worldwide tenure of his run in the Osborn Identity storyline. I picked it up at a shelter and was invested immediately in Spidey's chase for an unredeemed and depowered Norman.

Stuart's art was sensational, along with the colors, and I was HOOKED.

The stretch of issues from that run was my favorite stretch of issues, and it led to the fantastic Go Down Swinging finale that was just so good!
--Goodwin

Hey! I edited that one. Thanks again, Goodwin!

Email us at **SPIDEYOFFICE@MARVEL.COM** and mark your messages **"Okay to Print"** for a chance to see them answered in future issues!

SPIDERS & SYMBIOTES

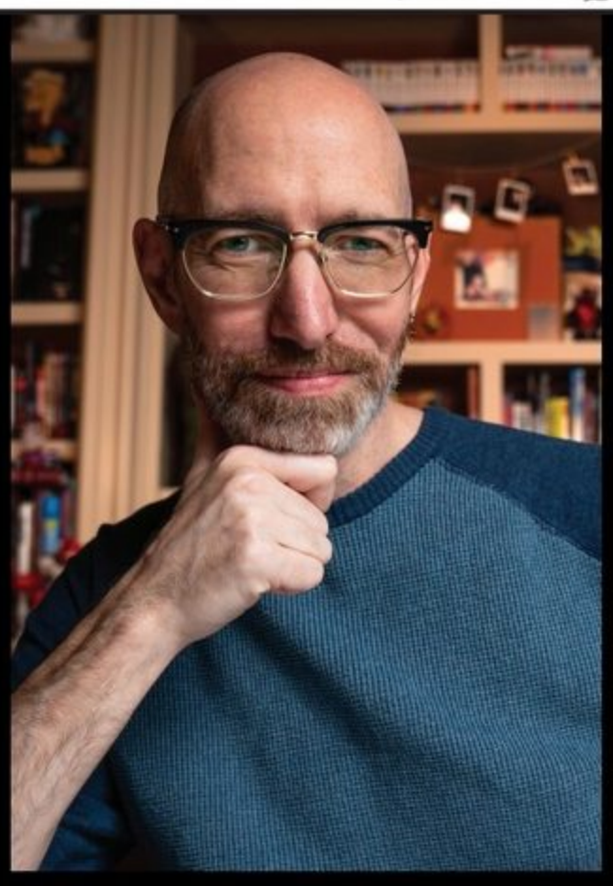
THE LOWE-DOWN

WEB-HEADS!

As we enter into the most gratitudinous month of the year, the Spider-Office has a lot to be thankful for. JOE KELLY is writing one of the most emotional runs of AMAZING SPIDER-MAN ever and issues #15 and #16 are no exception and I got teary-eyed reading them both!!! You have a chance for space tears from Joe and EMILIO LAISO in ASM #15 and Earth tears with Joe and JOHN ROMITA JR. on ASM #16! We're very grateful to CHARLES SOULE, JESÚS SAIZ and JUANAN RAMÍREZ for their awesome EDDIE BROCK: CARNAGE run, which ends with this month's issue #10. It's a sick (in all meanings) book, and we are going to miss it. Lastly, but not leastly, I'm thankful for the *Predator: Badlands* movie and the incredible P:B prequel comic that Spider-Associate Editor MARTIN BIRO, ETHAN SACKS and ELVIN CHING are doing in league with our friends at 20th Century! We're also full of gratitude for you Web-Heads!

Keep Thwippin',
Nick Lowe
Spider-Editor

THIS MONTH'S HOST



NAME: Joe Kelly... Joltin' Joseph Kelly the Calamitous is my given name.

TITLE: Peter Parker's therapist and sometimes writer of AMAZING SPIDER-MAN.

WORKS ON:
AMAZING SPIDER-MAN...ISN'T THAT ENOUGH?!

WHO IS YOUR IRL SUPER HERO?

My wife! <cue the sappy music> She is a school counselor who has helped literally thousands of kids through incredibly challenging life stuff. And she puts up with my nonsense. Amazing human being.

WHICH SPIDER-MAN VILLAIN DO YOU MOST RESONATE WITH?

On good days, the Rhino--put your head down and charge through whatever's in front of you. On bad days, I have to keep my inner Carnage at bay.

IF YOU COULD GIVE YOUR YOUNGER SELF ONE PIECE OF ADVICE, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

Trust your gut and be true to yourself, especially when it feels scary.

NEED YOUR SPIDER-FIX WHILE YOU WAIT FOR NEXT ISSUE?

THWIP-LIST

- ❑ AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #15
- ❑ MARVEL KNIGHTS: THE WORLD TO COME #4
- ❑ MILES MORALES: SPIDER-MAN #40

- ❑ AMAZING SPIDER-MAN: TORN #2
- ❑ EDDIE BROCK: CARNAGE #10
- ❑ MARVEL KNIGHTS: PUNISHER #2
- ❑ SPIDER-GIRL #6
- ❑ SPIDER-MAN NOIR #2

- ❑ VENOM #251
- ❑ ALL-NEW SPIDER-GWEN: THE GHOST-SPIDER #4
- ❑ AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #16
- ❑ RADIOACTIVE SPIDER-MAN #2
- ❑ BLACK CAT #4
- ❑ CLOAK OR DAGGER #2
- ❑ MARVEL ZOMBIES: RED BAND #3

EMERALD BENSADOUN, **KAITLYN LINDTVEDT** & **KAEDEN McGAHEY** - Assistant Editors
MARTIN BIRO & **TOM GRONEMAN** - Associate Editors **JORDAN D. WHITE** - Senior Editor
NICK LOWE - Executive Editor

PANEL OF THE MONTH:

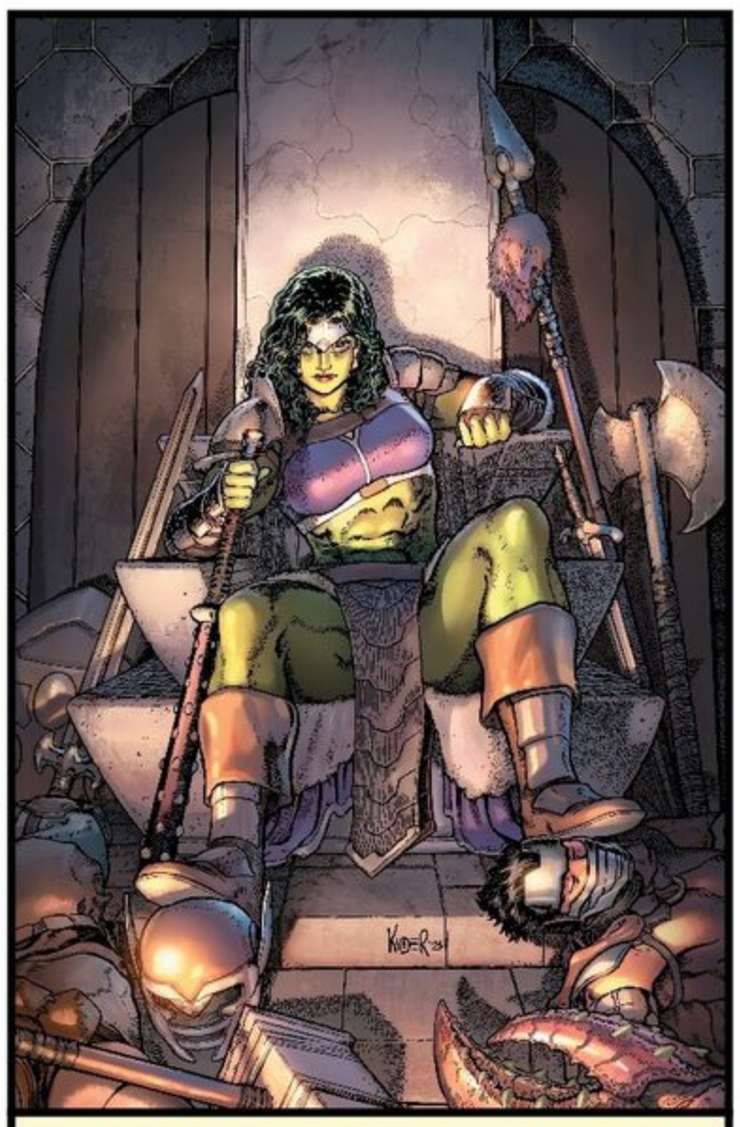
***INFERNAL HULK #1*, page 24, panel 2**
art by NIC KLEIN

GAMMA CORNER

IS HE SPIDER, OR IS HE SYMBIOTE...OR IS HE NEITHER?

INFERNAL HULK #1
On sale 11/26

SHE-HULK is back, and she's...stuck on Sakaar?! Spinning out of Jonathan Hickman's cosmic epic, IMPERIAL, She-Hulk is now in charge of keeping the peace on an alien planet at war!



PLANET SHE-HULK #1
On sale 11/5

EDGE OF THE VARIANT-VERSE

We in the Spider-Office are no stranger to variants--we've got a Spider-Verse full of 'em. It's hard to narrow it down, but check out our favorite variant cover of the month.

BLACK CAT #4
Street-Verse Variant Cover
by INHYUK LEE

NEXT:

#16

ON SALE IN NOVEMBER